

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 22-31 are pending in the application, with claims 22 and 28 being the independent claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claim 22-31 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-28 of U.S. Patent No. 6,426,680. Applicants are submitting a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection with respect to claims 22-31 for double patenting and pass these claims to allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Jeffrey T. Helvey
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,757

Date: 8/19/05

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

JTH/JH/agj
434858_1.DOC